United Nations E/AC.51/2004/L.5/Add.18

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
1 July 2004

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fourth session
7 June-2 July 2004
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

Rapporteur: Mr. Hitoshi **Kozaki** (Japan)

Draft report

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on 16 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 15)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 15 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the biennial programme plan under programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and the view was expressed that great importance attached to the programme. The revitalization of the programme structure as well as of the conference structure was welcomed.

4. Appreciation was expressed for the extensive intergovernmental consultations held in the preparation of the strategic framework. The view was expressed that it reflects the mandates of the Commission precisely and in a concise manner. It was

04-40972 (E) 020704

noted with satisfaction that the document is comprehensive, in-depth, realistic and user-friendly. Significant progress in results-based management was also noted.

5. Support was also expressed for the three thematic priorities: poverty reduction; managing globalization; and addressing emerging social issues.

6. The important role of the Commission in promoting economic and social development was noted, in particular, considering that the largest number of people living below the poverty level is in the Asia and Pacific region. The Commission was commended for its role in facilitating the Asian Highway Agreement, the new "silk route", connecting Asia to Europe.

7. The participation of civil society organizations in the activities of the Commission was welcomed and it was encouraged to develop appropriate mechanisms to make their participation more productive and constructive.

8. It was noted that the Commission has undertaken efforts to avoid overlap and to coordinate its activities with other relevant bodies, in particular between the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the secretariat of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Council and the secretariat of the Pacific Community, as mentioned in paragraph 15.14. The view was expressed that expected accomplishments (a) and (b) of subprogramme 2 appear similar. The view was also expressed that the Commission should continue to pursue the coordination and demarcation of roles. It was hoped that the Asian Highway Agreement would be signed by more countries and would contribute to the promotion of transportation in the region, as was expressed in the resolution adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth session, held in Shanghai in April 2004.

9. The view was expressed that there should be adequate coordination between the existing agencies and organizations dealing with information and communications, including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. It was also stated that activities under this subprogramme should be conducted taking due consideration of the discussions and opinions of experts in such fields.

10. Concern was expressed over the use of the term "human security" since this term is still the subject of debate in the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee recognized the importance of pilot programmes and the exchange of information on best practices in enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission.**

12. **The Committee recommended adherence to clear rules for involvement of civil society organizations in the activities of the Commission, as is the case in other United Nations bodies.**

13. **The Committee recognized that in implementing a "rights-based approach", it is important to take into account the nature of economic, social and cultural rights, which need to be progressively attained, within capacities of national resources and with assistance in terms of international cooperation.**

14. The Committee recognized the increased coordination of the Commission's activities with other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and encouraged continued partnerships in order to enhance their impact and avoid any possible duplication.

15. The Committee recognized the role of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in the implementation of subprogramme 7, Information, communication and space technology.

16. The Committee recognized that the inclusion of the reference to "human security" in this programme does not imply the acceptance of such a concept by the General Assembly. In this regard, the Committee stressed that no decision has been taken on this matter and that this reference, as included in a resolution adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth session, applies only to programme 15.

17. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development for Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications.

Paragraph 15.3

At the end of the paragraph, add the phrase ", as recognized by ESCAP".

Paragraph 15.9

Delete the first sentence and replace it with: "As a matter of priority, gender dimensions and the rights-based as well as development-based approaches for persons with disabilities will be mainstreamed across relevant subprogrammes."[1]

Paragraph 15.11

In the last sentence, replace "Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific" with "Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific".

Subprogramme 2
Statistics

Objective of the Organization: At the end of the sentence, insert the words ", at the request of members and associate members".

Subprogramme 5
Transport and tourism

Paragraph 15.23

Delete the existing paragraph 15.23 (b) and replace it with the following: "Assistance to improve capacity at the national level, at the request of

[1] ESCAP resolutions 58/4 and 59/3.

members and associate members, for regular monitoring and analysis of transport and tourism issues, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and, in particular, in least developed, landlocked developing and small island developing States";

Delete the existing paragraph 15.23 (e) and replace it with the following: "Promotion of wider participation of all stakeholders, in accordance with rules and procedures, in public/private partnerships in the implementation of policies and decisions."

Subprogramme 6
Environment and sustainable development

Under expected accomplishments of the Secretariat (a), delete the words "the integration of".

Paragraph 15.25

(*a*) After the words "Johannesburg Plan of Implementation" delete the words to the end of the paragraph.

(*c*) Delete the existing paragraph and replace it with the following: "Assisting member and associate member States in regular monitoring of environmental trends, the implementation of global environmental agreements and any reporting requirements."

(*e*) Delete the existing paragraph and replace it with the following: "Supporting those arrangements for regional and subregional cooperation in energy and water resources and environmental protection that are entered into by member States."

Legislative mandates

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of existing resolutions, add the following:

60/1 Shanghai Declaration

60/3 Work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in implementing its technical cooperation projects

Subprogramme 1
Poverty and development

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of existing resolutions, add the following:

60/5 Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 3
Development of Pacific island countries and territories

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of existing resolutions, add the following:

60/6 Revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre

60/7 Pacific Urban Agenda

Subprogramme 5
Transport and tourism

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the existing resolutions, add the following:

60/4 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network

Subprogramme 8
Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of existing resolutions, add the following:

60/2 Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health